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26 January 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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26 January 1959



DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Communist China: Chou En-lai, third-ranking member of the Chinese Communist party, is leading Peiping's delegation to the Soviet 21st Party Congress, although delegations from other bloc countries are being headed by their party first secretaries. Mao Tse-tung has never attended a Soviet party congress and the Chinese appear to have been rotating their representation at such functions among the leaders ranking immediately under Mao. Therefore, the failure of Mao to attend this congress does not in itself seem significant. It is possible that while in Moscow Chou may, as premier, participate in some phase of the negotiations on the 1959 Sino-Soviet trade pact, which has been under discussion for several months.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA



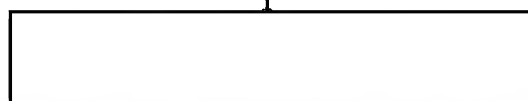
Ghana - Sino-Soviet bloc: Ghana now is apparently ready to exchange diplomatic missions with the USSR and may also soon conclude formal trade agreements and exchange permanent commercial missions with Poland and Czechoslovakia. [Some type of economic arrangement with East Germany may]

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[also be imminent.] Prime Minister Nkrumah, [redacted]

[redacted] may feel such a step at this
time would increase pressure on potential Western sources
of financing for Ghana's development program. [redacted]

*Italy: Premier Fanfani [redacted]

[redacted] is seriously considering resigning within the next
few days. He fears that as a result of the recent Nenni Social-
ist congress, enough Democratic Socialist deputies will desert
the government to erase its slim parliamentary margin. [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The immediate consequence of a Fanfani resignation at this time would probably be a minority Christian Democratic government, with the question of new elections delayed until after the Christian Democratic party congress in mid-April.

[REDACTED]

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DAILY BRIEF

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Ghana Expanding Contacts With Sino-Soviet Bloc

Prime Minister Nkrumah's government is expanding its contacts and appears likely soon to conclude its first real political and economic ties with the Sino-Soviet bloc. Nkrumah indicated in a 14 January press conference that Ghana now is prepared to implement the agreement which it reached a year ago with the USSR to exchange diplomatic missions at embassy level "in due course." Since then the USSR is believed to have maintained pressure for an early exchange through its embassy in London and through such special instruments as the Soviet observer-delegation to the recent All-African Peoples' Conference in Accra.

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Meanwhile, [three of the] European satellites are making an apparently concerted effort to induce Ghana to increase its economic ties with the bloc--heretofore limited essentially to commercial transactions accounting for only about two percent of Ghana's foreign trade. Poland, which has had a trade group in Accra this month, and Czechoslovakia, which sent such a delegation to Ghana in November, appear to be pressing for formal trade agreements and an exchange of permanent commercial representatives. [In addition, Czechoslovakia and East Germany, which sent a trade mission of its own to Accra last week, are reported offering to install a variety of light industries, presumably at attractive prices.]

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While some general arrangements may be announced shortly, many, if not all of the agreements, will probably not take final shape until spring when Ghana apparently intends to send a trade and good-will mission to eastern Europe. Except in the case of East Germany--with which Nkrumah will certainly deal more cautiously in view of the importance of West Germany as a market for Ghana's principal export, cocoa--such economic arrangements might soon lead to formal diplomatic ties as well.

Although some key Ghanaian officials appear to have been impressed by essentially economic arguments for closer relations with the bloc, Nkrumah may also feel such a course at this

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time would step up pressure on potential Western sources for financing Ghana's development program--particularly its ambitious \$850,000,000 Volta River hydroelectric-aluminum project.

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